

The Daily Charge

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Telling the MND-Baghdad Story

Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

Geronimo!

Paratroopers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, practice emergency exits from their vehicle while training at Camp Taji, Iraq Jan. 24

First Team family members meet with Brig. Gen. Brooks live from Baghdad

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Killeen Daily Herald

FORT HOOD, Texas - Though he was in Baghdad, Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks showed up at the 1st Cavalry Division's monthly town hall meeting just as scheduled - nine hours ahead of time if you really want to get technical.

Shortly after 6:45 p.m. here - or 3:45 a.m., yesterday in Baghdad - the 1st Cavalry and Multinational Division-Baghdad's deputy commander for support, appeared on three giant screens at the Fort

Hood Catering and Conference Center to answer questions from the more than 400 family members and rear command Soldiers in attendance.

This was the first-ever live feed from a senior leader to a group of families, and Sgt. Colby Hauser, a division spokesman, said that the Army wants live feeds like last night's to be a standard for informing family members.

The last time families heard from a senior commander, it was in a taped holiday message from Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., the division's commander, at the

December gathering.

The life feed went really well, Hauser said after Brooks disappeared from the screens and the town hall meeting went on with its regular activities.

"We're thrilled to be able to bring the leaders forward (in Iraq) back to families so they don't have to rely on national news," Hauser said.

In his session with the crowd, Brooks gave an update on operations that the Multinational Division-Baghdad Soldiers

See **Live**, Page 4



(Photo by Pfc. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

Now is the time to get ready for bodybuilding event

Pfc. Anthony Storey (right) spots his workout partner Spc. Mike Brooks as they work out at Camp Liberty, Iraq. An officially sanctioned bodybuilding competition, open to all U.S. forces, male and female, Department of Defense contractors and civilians has been scheduled for April 21 at the Scorpion Moral Welfare and Recreation Center on Camp Liberty. There is a \$35 entry fee, which will also enroll entrants into the International Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation. Those with questions, or wanting help preparing for the event should can see 1st Sgt. Woody Carter at the Scorpion MWR every Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., or contact him at woody.carter@us.army.mil.

Arabic Phrase
of the Day
akil

Defined:
food

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 68
Low: 40



Tomorrow

High: 68
Low: 42



Sunday

High: 61
Low: 42

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Staff Sgt. Mary Rose
Editor: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Shea Butler, Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writer: Amanda Kim Stairrett, Staff Sgt. Wayne Marlow

Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

The *Daily Charge* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Pressuring insurgents making Baghdad streets safer, Stryker commander says

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Army and coalition force troops cleared and secured a known insurgent hot-bed in the center of the Iraqi capital Jan. 24-25.

Operation Tomahawk Strike 11, led by 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and supported by Multi-National Division - Baghdad, disrupted insurgent activity on Haifa Street.

"The purpose of the past couple of days in Haifa Street was to disrupt militia-based activity in the area," said Lt. Col. Avanulas Smiley, commander of the Fort Lewis, Wash.-based 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

"It was an Iraqi Army-planned event there and the purpose of the battalion was to support the Iraqi Army's plan. Basically, the brigade was designed to go in and re-establish security in the Haifa Street area. My battalion facilitated that effort."

The Iraqi Army and coalition forces conducted searches thoroughly, providing amplified security in the area. This was the second operation in this troubled section of Baghdad in the past three weeks.

"We've had an operation there in the past which was also intended to disrupt militia activity. In between that time, we were able to observe and watch what the militia groups were doing," Smiley explained. "The Iraqi security forces came forth with a plan and they wanted coalition support. Therefore, we joined them in a combined planning effort and assisted them in the operation to disrupt militia activity and to, basically, reinstate the Iraqi Army presence in the Haifa Street area."

In all, Operation Tomahawk Strike 11 netted one cache and detained 21 insurgents. No local residents were killed during this operation.

Smiley, a native of Stellacome, Wash., said there were two major benefits from the operation beyond the



(Photo by Sgt. Jesse Granger 7th MPAD)

**Lt. Col. Avanulas Smiley
Commander, 1st Battalion, 23rd
Infantry Regiment**

capture of insurgents and munitions.

"First, any insurgent group knows that we will come wherever they are. There are absolutely zero safe havens for them," he said. "Secondly, I think the Iraqi security forces gain a tremendous amount of confidence after something like this."

Smiley said with more troops expected to arrive over the coming months, the security situation in the Iraqi capital should improve.

"I think any time we have an opportunity to provide forces to certain parts of Baghdad, that's nothing but advantageous to security forces on the ground."

Elements from the 6th Iraqi Army Division remain on Haifa Street and continue to hold the area and provide security patrols. With Operation Tomahawk Strike 11 complete, Smiley said the next step is to keep the pressure on insurgent groups within Baghdad.

"I think we'll continue to press militia safe havens - those places and keep the pressure up on them in order to stabilize the government of Iraq."

Baghdad in Brief



(Photo by 1st Lt. Jamil Brown, 1-18th Inf.)

Mortar rounds are laid out for inventory following three cache finds in southwestern Baghdad Jan. 24. The cache was uncovered after Soldiers were tipped off by local residents.

MND-B Soldiers Discover Caches in South Baghdad

BAGHDAD - Reacting to a tip provided by local residents, Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers discovered three large caches in the Jihad neighborhood of the Iraqi capital Jan. 24.

The timely and accurate tip provided by citizens of the area led Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, to the location of the caches. The caches consisted of many types of weapons and ammunition.

"The success of this mission resulted in these items being removed from the hands of the insurgents," said Capt. Philip Hensel, 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt.



Live town hall meeting an Army first

Live
From Page 1

were engaged in, including training of Iraqi troops and the handover of a province back to the Iraqi security forces. He spoke about the Soldiers' morale, saying they were pleased with their facilities and that, for reasons he couldn't explain, morale was highest in units at the smallest, most remote posts.

He thanked families, saying that he was proud of the strength and toughness they have shown during the deployment.

"We are honored to fight with people like you," he said.

He added that people in the surrounding communities can help the Soldiers by keeping in contact with each other and spreading the word about what is really going on in Iraq. He urged people to keep perspective on what is happening in the country and not hang on every news of violence because "things are actually going better than they appear."

"Keep up confidence," he added. "Keep up hope."

Hauser said the live meeting was also a hit with the leaders in Iraq.

"Baghdad was pretty much ecstatic

over the event," he said.

The families were, too. When Brooks first appeared on the screens, a cheer erupted through the room. After he left, Col. Larry Phelps, the division's rear commander, asked the families what they thought. The success was obvious as the even louder cheers and applause rang through the building.

It is good for the families to see a face and hear a little bit about day-to-day life in Iraq, said Bonnie Sutherland, wife of Col. David Sutherland, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. They can't see the kind of lives the Soldiers are living during their deployment, she said, and insights from folks like Brooks help.

"I'm so happy it worked," she said of the live feed. "It was a good morale booster."

The town hall meetings, which the rear command began even before the division deployed, are successful, Sutherland said, and that is evidenced by the crowd that grows every month.

When the "monthly Cav pep rallies," as Phelps called them, started, Sutherland said some thought they would become large-scale gripe sessions. Instead, she added, families leave feeling uplifted.



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Lewis)

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, the 1st Cavalry Division's deputy commanding general for support addresses First Team family members at the division's Town Hall meeting at the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center Jan. 25.



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. William Grove, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

1st Cavalry Division family members watch a live video feed from Baghdad during the division's Town Hall meeting at the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center Jan. 25. More than 400 Soldiers and family members gathered to see the first live, satellite feed from the division's leadership in Baghdad. Brooks later took questions from family members in the first-ever live, satellite-fed Town Hall meeting.

NFL rich in diversity**Black History to be made February in Miami**

February is Black History Month, celebrated in the United States and within the Department of Defense the world over. Black history will also be made in early February when the Indianapolis Colts take on the Chicago Bears in this year's Super Bowl Feb. 4 in Miami.

Both Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith will make history by becoming the first African-Americans to coach a Super Bowl team. One of them will make history by becoming the first winning African-American Super Bowl head coach.

Way back in the Dec. 11 edition of Crossed Sabers, this columnist correctly predicted the Colts winning the AFC title with Nostradamus-like precision. (I also gave several good reasons why the Bears would choke at home - again - and fail to get to the Mecca of professional football. Nobody's perfect.)

Still, my pick to win it all this year, even BEFORE the playoffs began was the Indianapolis Colts.

Not to blow my own horn, but here's my reasons for picking Indy, in case you missed it:

'Payton Manning may not throw 50 touchdown passes this year, yet he's been nearly flawless through 10 games (at the time of this writing), tossing 20 TDs to only five interceptions as the Indianapolis Colts have matched the Bears with a 9-1

Trigger Pull**Master Sgt.
Dave Larsen**

record of their own.

There was some concern in Indy in the off-season that head coach Tony Dungy might take a year off following the tragic loss of his oldest son, but in the wake of that tragedy and their collapse against the Steelers in the playoffs last season, the Colts appear to be a team on a mission - destined for greatness.

Known as a defensive guru for years, Dungy now rides herd on one of the most potent offenses ever seen, led by a shoo-in hall of fame quarterback.

I'm rooting for the Colts, who thus far have only lost once - to the Dallas Cowboys. Come playoff time, they won't lose again.'

How's THAT for prophetic?! OK, so I took the front-runner (at the time). By the end of the season, the Colts had dropped a couple more games and gave home-field advantage away to the San Diego Chargers.

This year's Super Bowl match-up is

indeed historic. The Bears haven't been to the big game since "Iron Mike" Ditka, Walter "Sweetness" Payton and William "The Fridge" Perry shuffled off to Chitown.

The Colts?

Please. They haven't won a title since they left Baltimore.

Besides the head coaches making color-barrier-breaking history, the real story line to play out of this contest lie with the quarterbacks. Rex Grossman, despite going 13-3, keeps getting second-guessed, even by the home town fans. He's underappreciated for a guy who doesn't do anything - but win.

Peyton Manning probably even has more pressure heading into Miami. Until guiding the comeback against New England, he's never won a big game. Yet, Manning possesses hall of fame talent and a receiving corps everyone drools over.

Chicago's defense is the best in the league this year. They're not good enough to stop Indy's race to a title. My prediction: Colts 24, Bears 10.

A final note: the question of race never even enters my mind when it comes to predicting success, or failure, of a particular team or sporting event. Someday, maybe we'll all be judged by our character and not by our color. History will be made Feb. 4. Someday, maybe it won't matter.

TELEVISION

	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
	Football Friday		Men's College Basketball - North Carlonia at Arizona				The Pulse
	Men's College Basketball - Michigan at Indiana				Men's College Basketball - Oklahoma at Texas A&M		
	CNN Newsroom		Weekend Live		Wall Street Journal Report	Army Newswatch	Studio B Weekend